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| 09/699,163      | 10/27/2000  | Michael J. Freeman   | 5938.25             | 8449             |

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EXAMINER

BUI, KIEU OANH T

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2611

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/699,163

**Applicant(s)**

FREEMAN ET AL.

**Examiner**

KIEU-OANH T. BUI

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/09/04&03/18/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

*A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --*

*(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.*

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harper et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,141).

Regarding claim 1, Harper discloses "a system for providing live interactive digital programming" (Figs. 1 & 4, and col. 7/lines 53-57 & col. 8/lines 27-35 for real-time interactive digital programming addressed), comprising:

"a means for receiving video signals from a plurality of video cameras, one or more of the cameras relaying a different predetermined view of a live event; a means for producing one or more audio signals corresponding to the live event; a means for generating one or more graphics signals", i.e., live interactive sessions from the teacher is recording and broadcasting in real-time to students at remote locations, and the live event comprising audio and video contents for the students to study and learn (col. 9/lines 35-54 & col. 11/line 35 to col. 12/line 25 for either pre-recorded program or live program can be transmitted to the students in either analog or digital transmission);

“at least one digital compression device, connected to the receiving and producing means, for digitally compressing the video, graphics and audio signals; a means for processing, connected to the compression device, wherein the processing means creates a set of data commands which link together the various audio, graphics and video signals, the data commands including branching commands”, i.e., audio digital encoder/compressor 500 and video digital encoder compressor 504 are used for digitally compressing the video, graphics and audio signals (Fig. 4, and col. 14/line 53 to col. 15/line 12; and branching commands are addressed in col. 19/lines 5-16 and further paragraphs on col. 19 and 20 for details on branching commands);

“a digital multiplexer, connected to the digital compression device, for multiplexing the video, graphics and audio signals, and the data codes into a combined digital program stream” (Fig. 4, for a digital multiplexer 508 in providing a composite signal, and col. 15/lines 13-25); and “a means for transmitting the combined digital program stream”, i.e., satellite or fiber optic, DS, etc can be used for transmitting the combined signal to the receivers 158, see col. 15/lines 13-25);

Regarding claim 2, Harper teaches ‘a method for providing live interactive digital programming, comprising the steps of: obtaining video signals from a plurality of video cameras, one or more of the cameras relaying a different view of a live event; producing one or more audio signals corresponding to the live event; creating one or more graphics signals; receiving the video and audio signals in a control studio; digitally compressing the video, graphic and audio signals; producing a set of data codes corresponding to the programming, the data codes including branching commands; digitally multiplexing the video, graphics and audio signals, and

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the data codes into a combined digital program stream; transmitting the combined digital program stream” (see claim 1 above for details);

“receiving the combined digital program stream at a receive site” (Fig. 1/at receiver 158);

“re-transmitting the combined digital program stream on a digital cable television distribution system” and “receiving the combined digital program stream at one or more viewer sites”; i.e., distribution system 166 can use either digital satellite or optic fiber or digital cable system for transmitting the combined signal to one or more viewer sites (Fig. 1, and col. 16/lines 15-43);

“gathering viewer specific information; processing the data commands”, i.e, based on the student’s responses, data commands are processed (col. 16/line 45 to col. 17/line 61 for the operation of classroom master unit);

“digitally demultiplexing the video and audio signals resulting in a first video and audio signal, the first output video and first audio signal selected based on the data commands and gathered viewer specific information” (col. 16/line 45 to col. 17/line 61 for the operation of classroom master unit including the digitally demultiplexing step);

“instructing the digital demultiplexer to commence demultiplexing a second video and second audio signal, the second video signal and second audio signal selected based on the data commands and gathered viewer specific information” and “seamlessly switching from the first to the second video signal; and displaying the second video signal on a screen”, i.e., based on the students’ response from the first session or performance feedback, the teacher can focus on different area or a second session as needed based on the previous feedback (col. 30/lines 6-25).

As for claim 3, Harper further discloses “comprising the steps of: creating a viewer profile with the gathered viewer specific information; wherein selecting the video and audio signals are based in part on the viewer profile”, i.e., based on the student requests and responses, viewer profile is created and stored in the PC’s memory of the instructor (col. 20/lines 10-39).

As for claim 4, in further view of claim 2, Harper discloses “wherein the step of gathering viewer specific information comprises the step of displaying at least one interrogatory to the viewer, the content of the interrogatory involving program options; collecting entries from the viewer in response to the interrogatories; and wherein the selection of video or audio signals is based in part on the collected viewer entries”, i.e., at least one interrogatory to the viewer or more can be performed and all of viewer entries are collected for providing appropriate video and audio signals using memory branching technique (col. 20/line 10 to col. 23/line 20 for more details and examples for branching technique and interrogatories involved).

Regarding claim 5, Harper discloses “a system for providing live interactive digital programming, comprising: a means for receiving video signals some of which are from a plurality of video cameras, one or more of the cameras relaying a different predetermined view of a live event; a means for producing one or more audio signals corresponding to the live event; a means for generating one or more graphics signals; at least one digital compression device, connected to the receiving and producing means, for digitally compressing the video, graphics and audio signals; a digital multiplexer, connected to the digital compression device, for multiplexing the video, graphics and audio signals, into a combined digital program stream; and a means for transmitting the combined digital program stream” (see claim 1 above).

As for claims 6-8, in view of claim 5, Harper teaches “wherein the transmission means is a satellite transmission system”; “wherein the transmission means is a cable distribution system”; “wherein the transmission means is a broadcast transmission system” (Fig. 1, CATV distribution system 138, satellite system 146, and broadcast transmission system 142).

As for claim 9, in further view of claim 5, Harper suggests “wherein the combined digital program stream is received within a private network”, i.e., a closed user group of students can be regarded as a private network (col. 5/line 38 to col. 6/line 64).

As for claim 12, in view of claim 5, Harper suggests “wherein the combined digital program stream is received over the Internet” (col. 18/lines 33-42 as the remote sites can use the Internet for receiving digital program).

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harper et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,141).

Regarding claim 10, in view of claim 5, Harper does not mention “wherein the combined digital program stream is received within an in-stadium network”; however, the Examiner takes an official notice that this is simply a preference choice of setting up this system within any network anywhere based on the service provider’s choice, for instance, whether it can be set up

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in a foreign country or a local area, in a supermarket or “in-stadium” network. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Harper’s system for a closed group of users as suggested in order to provide this system within a stadium. The motivation for doing this is to offer an enjoyment to viewers in watching a live game or show in a closer up watching at their own video/audio receivers.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 03/01/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., **compressing multiple video signals**) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicants argues that Harper does not offer the technique of “compressing multiple video signals” as suggested, yet this limitation eventually does not include in the claim languages since the claim languages simply claim a means for generating “one or more graphics signals” and the one digital compressing device (suggesting) compress “one or more graphics signals”; and it does not necessary mean “compressing multiple video signals.” As shown in Figure 1 of the present application, one can realize that the digital video encoder/compressor 125 can either compresses only one video signal, by using the video switch 105, or more signals in an alternative time, not necessary at the same time for “multiple video signals”. Therefore, Harper reads on the claim languages of claims 1, 2, and 5 with management PC 122 for managing or controlling the compressing of signals using data commands or control codes (Fig. 2).



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***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

7. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9306, (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-7291. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant, can be reached on (571) 272-7294.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Bui', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kieu-Oanh Bui  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2611

KB  
June 29, 2005